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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

SECTO 46

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, EHRNY A.), PFOR, NL, EAIR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH NETHERLANDS FONMIN
VAN DER STOEL -- CIVIL AVIATION

1. DURING NETHERLANDS FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S CALL ON SECRETARY DECEMBER 11, HE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THE DUTCH PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT ATTACHE TO RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM POSED BY US EFFORTS TO REDUCE KLM TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS.
VAN DER STOEL CLAIMED THAT EVEN STAUNCHEST ATLANTICISTS IN THE NETHERLANDS HAD BEGUN TO SPEAK OUT EMOTIONALLY
ON THIS QUESTION.

2. THE SECRETARY SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT DUTCH CONFRONTED INTERNAL PRESSURES ON CIVIL AVIATION QUESTION. HE THEN DREW VAN DER STOEL'S ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS THE US FACES ON THIS SUBJECT -- ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SIZE OFIMBALANCE PRESENTLY ENJOYED BY KLM. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE WE VERY MUCY VALUE THE FRIEDNDHIP OF THE NETHERLANDS, WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR OWN INTERESTS. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, SECRETARY PROPOSED THAT US-DUTCH TALKS RESUME EARLY IN 1975 SAYING USG WOULD DO ITS BEST TO SHOE FLEXIBILITY, IF NETHERLANDS RECIPROCATED IN KIND.

3. VAN DER STOEL ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL, PROVIDED THERE WOULD BE NO UNILATERAL US ACTION PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF
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NEGOTIATIONS. THE SECRETARY PROMISED THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH

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UNILATERAL US ACTION; IN FACT, NOTHING WOULD BE DONE UNTIL HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRESIDENT. SECRETARY AGREED WITH VAN DER SOTEL SUGGESTION THAT TALKS BETWEEN PANAM AND KLM MIGHT PROVE USEFUL.

4. VAN DER STOEL CLAIMED KLM HAD ALREADY CUT NEARLY 25 PERCENT OF ITS PROJECTED TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS AND HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO BEGIN REDUCING KLM EMPLOYMENT ROLLS. HE RECALLED DUTCH HAD VOLUNTEERED A FREEZE ON NUMBER OF FLIGHTS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND THAT KLM HAD MADE "FAR GREATER CONCESSIONS" THAN ANY OF ITS COMPETITORS. FINALLY, HE NOTED US ENJOYED ABOUT DOLS 2 BILLION ANNUAL SURPLUS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT WITH THE NETHERLANDS AND POINTEDLY CALLED ATTENTION TO LARGE AMERICAN EARNINGS FROM AIRCRAFT SALES.

5. REGARDING PRESS GUIDANCE, SECRETARY SUGGESTED AND VAN DER STOEL AGREED TO CITE UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH SIDES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME SOON, THAT US WOULD TAKE NO UNILATERAL ACTION IN THE MEANTIME, AND THAT SECRETARY AND VAN DER STOEL WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THE MATTER.KISSINGER

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